

The

Old Paludians Newsletter

Founded 1915

March 2001

Last year's Reunion was an outstanding success - more members attended than ever before and we basked in glorious sunshine throughout the day. Since then we have succeeded in putting a number of members in contact with their friends even putting friends back in touch after gaps of 50 years or more - and we are delighted to welcome them to the Association as new life members!! Being able to 'find' lost friends is so satisfying and we are pleased to help. The sale of our book **Recollections of Slough Secondary School and the Old Paludians ... as remembered by Peter Bennett and others** is on-going; please get in touch if you haven't yet had a copy.

Sadly we have lost several of our most loyal members this year and more details are given within this *Newsletter*; however we must mention Fred Lucas who, at 101 years old, died just a few weeks after last year's Reunion - he did see his copy of the Book and was thrilled with it.

****GUESTS****

Miss Jane Brown (1984-90). Miss Brown was at the Grammar School as a pupil (Head Girl 1989-90) and has returned as Librarian. The Library will be open during the Reunion for Old Paludians to look around and to see the gifts purchased last year with our 'Millennium Donation' to the School.

Mr David Rogers (Senior Classics Master until July 2000). Mr Rogers retired last year after 37 years of dedicated service. Latterly he helped set up and record the School archive material which is now such a traditional and eagerly awaited part of every Reunion Day. He writes, "I am enjoying my part-time post and it has left me time to help out at the Grammar School too. So I am still keeping an active link with the School - something which pleases me a good deal. I look forward to seeing you all in March."

Mrs Margaret Lenton - Principal. Lastly but most definitely not least, we are always pleased to welcome our President, Mrs Lenton, at our Reunions each year and we thank her for her continued support. Without her interest in the Old Paludians, our Association and its Annual Reunion would be very different.

****STAFF NEWS****

Miss Gwen Allen (1934-39). Though I am unable to join the Reunion it's fun to hear from you after all these years - when I was indeed a very 'green horn'. It's fun to be visited almost annually by **David & Ann Neale**. Anyone else who passes this way will be very welcome - no doubt a cup of tea or coffee too! With Good Wishes to any who remember me (and **Miss Cooke** - oh, the hockey in the mud - those were the days) and have an excellent and happy Reunion. *Miss Allen lives at Milton-under-Wychwood, Oxon. Contact Valerie/ Gwen for more details.*

Mr and Mrs Binstead (SGS and SHS). Daughter **Elizabeth** (1955-62) visits from Wahroonga (suburb north of Sydney) each year together with one or more of her family - husband, 4 grown up children and 2 grandchildren. We are trying to grow old gracefully on arthritic knees!!

Miss Stella Saunderson (1947-85). I do so enjoy reading the Old Pals Newsletter. I still live locally and run across (*not over!*) various ex-SHS pupils as I push my trolley round Taplow Sainsbury's or serve them at Wexham Park Hospital WRVS. Greetings to all.

Miss M L White (1947-71). The highlight of last year was my lovely 90th birthday party given by the family

which included a drive over the Yorkshire Moors and on down to the sea at Filey. I am unable to travel much but do walk down to the village for events connected with the Church, Women's' Country Club and the WI. Heard from **Mrs Fraser** (née Slattery) in Heidelberg Heights, Australia, at Christmas; also from the **Pywell** twins who are now retired from nursing in Vancouver. I am sorry not to be able to attend but I hope everyone has a most successful Reunion and a good year to follow.

Mrs Joyce Sprigg (née **Patrick** SHS in 1950's). **Mrs Hancock** sent news of Miss Patrick, as we knew her, who now lives in Brighton, South Australia. She recalls Valerie and several of the other students. We remember her taking us for chemistry and send her our good wishes.

Miss Anne Harris (1961-69). Recently returned from a wonderful 5 weeks in New Zealand visiting friends and also including an excellent tour. Disappointed that the Reunion clashes with a promised attendance at a Golden Wedding celebration. Greetings to all who remember me, to former staff (and particularly **Miss Saunderson**) together with former SHS students especially **Michele Bovey** (née Sothcott 1958-65).

Mrs Pat Purdue (Matron 1964-80). Celebrated our Golden Wedding in September with a family party and moved to Wellington in Somerset in October – a big step but we are very happy here. Daughter Frances lives 5 miles away (2 boys aged 20 and 13) and her twin Stephen is in Wallingford; he has been ill but is improving – one son aged 14. My younger pair of twins are James (County Durham with one daughter and one son) and Paul, who is in Horton, has 3 daughters (20, 18 and 12 years). My best wishes for the Reunion to former SHS staff and pupils.

Mrs Joan Davies (1967-70). I was on the part-time English staff, teaching mainly the pre-nursers and was known then as Joan Burrell-Davis. Also mother of **Tina Francis** (1968-75). Attending her first Reunion.

Mrs Dee Hudson (1967-81). Sorry to miss the Reunion yet again. It is very difficult for me to leave my husband who is totally blind – there are not many left who would remember me (and Alice) and fewer Old Pals whom I would have taught.

Mrs Anne Orchard (1964-86). I don't know where the time goes to in retirement! Sorry not to be attending the Reunion but I am not too well at present. I hope you have a happy and successful day.

Mrs Susan White (1969-74). Not easy to visit Slough from Yorkshire as my husband isn't too well. Nice to have news after 25 years!! I will visit the web-site to keep in touch.

Mrs Bettridge (1978-83). Unfortunately we are off to India for a week on 31st March – my first ever trip outside Europe!

Mrs Gillian Dibden (1986-88 Upton Grammar). Continues to have much success with the Berkshire Youth Choir.

Good wishes from: Mrs Alice Beck, Mrs Valerie Benjamin (née Orme), Dr Rachel Gourlay, Mrs Maureen Hancock, Mrs D Pritchard, Mrs J Sumner, Miss Monica Wykes. **LATE:** Miss Baker, Miss Booth. Mrs Boul, Mrs Chedlow, Miss Haywood, Miss E Tucker, Miss (Latin) Tucker (aged 94!)

Hoping to attend the Reunion: Mrs S Cater, Mrs J Davies, Miss M Rowland, Miss S Saunderson and Miss C Shaw.

****1910s****

Fred Lucas: Fred died shortly after last year's Reunion at the grand age of 101 years. Born in March 1899 he attended Slough Secondary School on its opening day in January 1912. In due course he left school and served in the Navy during the Great War seeing action at the Battle of Jutland in April 1916 aboard HMS Iron Duke. He later served King and Country again during WWII. Fred celebrated his 100th birthday in great style but last year was not well enough to really enjoy his birthday. After consultation with his son, Dr Arthur Lucas, the Old Paludians gave a donation to the Mission for Seamen in his memory.

****1920s****

Molly Page (Sands 1921-28). Still at Tithe Farm Rest Home in Stoke Poges. Son Graham keeps in touch with us and Molly enjoys hearing from friends.

Mrs G M Bennett (Knight 1922-26). Continues living at Burnham Lodge and is happy there. Looks forward to family visits.

Bob Sands (1923-28). So sorry I can't come – have a family wedding up in Oxfordshire on that day – the daughter of my late sister Sheila.

Mrs Alice Lang (Hoby 1927-33). Hoping to attend after lunch.

Joyce Preddle (Hobson 1929-32). Joyce and Bill will celebrate their Diamond Wedding in the summer. They met when they were 10 years old and Bill was attending Windsor County School. *Congratulations from us all – Ed.*

****IN MEMORIAM****

Alfred Sands (1925-31). It was a great shock to learn of the very sudden death of **Alfred** on 12 January at the great age of 86. He had lived in Burnham the whole of his life; after leaving Slough Secondary School he became a director of the family motor engineering business, W J Sands, which his father had founded and where he remained until retirement. He supported many local organisations and was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Burnham – in recognition of his service, he was made a Paul Harris Fellow which is the Rotary Club's highest honour. With his brother Bob, he was the longest serving member of the United Reform Church in Burnham. In his early days Alfred played both football and cricket for the village. A much respected, kind and gentle man who will be sorely missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Winnie and his family.

Harold Waite (1926-32). It was very sad to hear that **Harold Waite** had died shortly after last year's Reunion, which he had been able to attend and spend a happy afternoon with the Old Pals. He will be remembered as a kindly, humorous, highly principled man with many interests including music and Morris dancing. With OP's, **Muriel Benbridge** (Cooke), contralto and **David Owen**, tenor, Harold as bass singer made up three-quarters of the Richings Quartet. **Gwen Gale** (Knight), your Treasurer, often played piano for Harold in solos, duets and the above Quartet. Even when performing solemn songs the twinkle in the eye was ever present. Several Old Pals attended Harold's Memorial Service at Iver. Sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Percy Young (1920's). Many of the Old Paludians will remember Percy who lived in Slough all his life – sadly he died on 4 February aged 87 years. He followed the fortunes of the OP's, not only because of his own links with the School but, also due to the fact the brothers and sister of his wife **Kathleen née Ford** were all former pupils of SGS or SHS (Richard is one of our members). We offer our sympathies to Kathleen and the family at this time.

*LATE: **Jean Bailey** (Sands) 1927-33). Sister of Alf, died shortly before the Reunion.*

****1930s****

George Pontin 1930-35). Congratulations! We all send our very good wishes to George on the occasion of his engagement to Nancy and look forward to having them both join us at the Reunion.

Peter Bennett (1930-36). Peter sent along several pages from the Sports Section of last August's Maidenhead Advertiser in which the Old Paludians cricket team got quite a lot of coverage! Mixed fortunes but there were a number of photographs. Keeps the name alive!

Marjorie Cruse (1931-35). I have now been in sheltered housing for 3 years. The great thing is that I have been able to have my small dog with me and we have settled well though I still miss my garden. However I do have a small part of our garden here which should be sufficient at my age!! I am sorry not to be at the Reunion but wish the best of luck to all the Old Paludians and hope the day goes well.

Lionel Green (1931-36). We have heard of the recent death of Lionel who lived in Grantham, Lincs. Many will remember the family including his sister **Una** (SHS) and brother **Dennis** (SGS).

John Gunn (1931-36). Sorry, once again I shan't be able to come – don't suppose I ever will!! Best wishes to all – is there anyone who remembers me and still attends? (*You would be surprised, John. Ed.*)

Peggy Needham (Nicholls 1931-36). It's a sad day, for I must write to say I shall not be at the Reunion this year – all my contemporaries seem to have passed away or live too far away to attend. All best wishes to the school members past and present. *You will be with us in spirit - Ed.*

Hilda Halls (Milcoy 1932-37). Sadly my husband, **Reg**, died in January – although not an Old Pal, he was born and educated in Slough, so he knew many OP's through other organisations of which he was a member. He also got to know them when I was Secretary of the Girls' Section in the 1950's. There may be members at the Reunion who knew him. *We extend our sympathy to Hilda in her sad loss. Ed.*

Joan Clack (Waite 1933-39). Greetings to any survivors of my years; especially if they have managed to survive rain, floods and any other adversity! I am still very busy but frustrated with garden/allotment – so WET!

Warwick Dyer (1933-40). I am not able to attend this year due to poor health. Good wishes to all especially the **Sands** family. I still keep in touch with **Margaret Gillett**.

Len Thorne (1934-36). On a sunny day last June, Len celebrated his 80th birthday in a somewhat unusual way – he took off in a *Slingsby Firefly* and proceeded to perform a series of hair-raising loops, rolls, dives and spins high in the sky above his neighbours!! He stills flies to aerobatic standard and once a flier, always a flier. He admitted it helped not to have someone shooting at him but the most important aspect of this particular flying display was that it raised about £1600 in sponsorship money for the Children's Playground Appeal of his local hospital. He is still flying all sorts of different aircraft and recently flew new one to him which "went quite a bit faster with a better rate of climb". We are looking forward to seeing Len at this year's Reunion – feet on the ground, though. *(What are you planning for your 90th birthday?? Ed.)*

Ken & Daphne Norman (Ken 1934-39, Daphne née Claret 1934-40). We are planning to attend to see old friends; Daphne and I celebrate our 55th Wedding Anniversary on Reunion Day. *Congratulations.*

David and Ann Neale (David 1934-40 and Ann née Keeping 1945-50). They send greetings to any who remember either of them. They have lived in the Woodford Green area since their marriage in 1955, and for the last 14 years, together with their daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandchildren. After wartime service as a pilot in RAF Coastal Command, David worked as an Industrial Chemist until retiring in 1989. He has since kept busy sharing in the Bible presentation work of Gideons International, including giving to children in some 44 secondary schools in the NE London and Essex area. See also **Robert Neale** (1945-51)

Doreen Pearce (née Currie, formerly **Brant** 1934-40). I was re-married on 26 August last year. It's great to be looked after and spoiled after 22 years!. *Congratulations from us all.*

Mavis Mackinnon (Cooper 1935-41). Daughter **Sandy** (now 50!) has returned to USA after 23 years over this side of the Big Pond. She now lives in a rural retreat north west of Chicago with her American husband and my grandson Todd Ryan. I spent Christmas and New Year with them surrounded by snow. Not tempted to live there although a 'posh' apartment overlooking Lake Michigan would be ideal!

Jean Bostock (Burnett 1936-41). Unfortunately previous commitments prevent me from attending this year's Reunion but I send very best wishes to everyone and shall look forward to next year's get-together.

Richard Ford (1936-44). Sorry he can't make it again this year due to a prior engagement. Sends good wishes.

Joan Hedge (Stutt 1936-44). Sends us the sad news of the death of **Gwen Pallett** (Bates 1937-42).

Iris (Betty) Hull (Burnett 1937-42). We were saddened last March by the death of our youngest grandson aged 6 months. In the autumn we went on a magical 3-week tour of Ireland. This year, 28 July, is our Golden Wedding and there will be a major family get-together. Sorry my sister **Jean Bostock** (1936-41) and I won't be attending – next year is a must and best wishes to our friends from so many years ago. *Congratulations on the Golden Wedding – Ed.*

Derek Simmance (1937-42). A new Life Member – he and brother **Stan** (1940-45) are looking forward to attending their first Reunion.

Edna Parrett (Hearn 1937-43). Sorry to be unable to attend – have a family birthday. I hope you have a most enjoyable day.

Phyllis Prismall (Rivers 1937-43). I am now much improved and would like to thank all the Old Paludians who wrote or phoned during my illness – not forgetting **Olive Ferguson** (Thomas 1937-45) who sadly died shortly before Christmas, she certainly helped keep my spirits up. Look forward to seeing you all on 31st March – last year's date clashed with my Golden Wedding.

Paddy & Pam May (Paddy 1937-44). We haven't got any 'new' news but we are both looking forward to seeing everyone on 31st March.

Joyce Egelstaff (Walker 1938-42). I am really looking forward to seeing everyone again on 31 March.

Monica Fairweather (Darling 1938-44). Monica died last October. Her husband Jim suffered an accident in 1986 which left him a paraplegic in a wheelchair. With her sister Beryl, Monica nursed him at home until he died 2 years ago. She leaves a son and daughter, the latter presenting Monica and Jim with 2 granddaughters who were the source of great happiness in recent years. Schoolfriend **Audrey Tarrant** sends this news from her home in Canada and joins with their mutual SHS friend **Joyce White** (Ambrose 1939-44) now living in Hereford, in recalling many happy memories of their wartime schooldays in Twinchies Lane.

Audrey Tarrant (Elderfield 1938-44). Living on Vancouver Island, Audrey plans a trip 'home' with husband Phil (as well as with son David and his family) later in the year so sadly will miss the Reunion. She sent photos of the family taken last year including the 4 grandchildren enjoying their rocking horses carved by Phil. Daughter Kay has been in Australia for 20 years resulting in several wonderful holidays 'down under'.

'Micki' Vale (Flinn 1939-43). Once again Micki has been on her travels. In April she cruised from Bombay to Athens via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Stops on the way included Petra, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. After Christmas it was off to Buenos Aires, on to Iguassu Falls and then she joined a ship for a cruise to the Falklands and Antarctica. Can that ever be bettered!! Sorry I can't make the Reunion.

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland 1939-45). Sorry I can't make it again this year, I get so stiff travelling after just half an hour – any journey from Lincolnshire would take forever! Since my hip replacement, the pain has gone to be replaced by an ache but I am playing bowls again. I even got on my bike again last summer! The family are all well with the grandchildren doing OK at their respective 'Uni, College or School'. My best wishes to all those who know me and I hope to make it next year. Have a great day.

Jean Bignell (Climer 1939-45). Not too well at present. Brother **Ben Climer** (SGS) retired at Christmas – he also lives in the Lincoln area. Uncle **Len Thorne** (1934-36) is doing well – I will let him tell you all his news. Best wishes to all.

Christine Gibbons (1939-45). Sorry not to be able to attend but I'm taking part in a music festival that day.

Eileen Weekes (Porter 1939-45). Eileen is in a Nursing Home and cannot attend the Reunions now.

Betty Foster (Thomas 1939-46). Sorry I can't make it to the Reunion this year – I'm awaiting an eye op and don't think I could drive from Stratford-on-Avon in safety (either for me or the other road users!!) My greetings to the others of our 1939-46 crowd – I can't believe how much time has passed.

Pamela Kilpin (Brown 1939-46). Lives in Ontario, Canada and will be celebrating her Golden Wedding on Reunion Day. *Congratulations from us all - Ed.*

New Life Members: **Peter and Joy Egelstaff** (Peter 1939-43 and Joy née Salter 1934-43), **Derek Simmance** (1937-42), **G A Shaw** (1938-44).

Good wishes from: **Esmé Holloway** (Berendt 1930-33), **John Dean**** (1930-36), **E. Irene Anderson** (1931-38), **Margaret Black** (Sands 1932-37), **Margaret Gillett** (McGillivray 1932-37), **Frank Robotham** (1937-42), **Betty Britten** (Boys 1939-42). LATE ** **John** sadly died just a couple of days before the Reunion.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Vij Burgess (1933-38). Vij, as she was known to her closest friends, was a charismatic person who led a most varied and interesting life. On leaving school she became a civil servant in London and was re-located to Southport during the War. She returned from there in 1941 to help her mother and sisters run the family garage when her father became ill; she then became a Land Girl subsequently acting as a Milk Recorder. In

1945 Vij was able to go to Moulton College where she studied agriculture. With a friend, Tucker, she took over the running of a farm in Denham in 1948 and started a Young Farmer's Club in Stoke Poges. By the late 1950's she moved to London again fulfilling her dream of being a journalist working for various publications including the Farmers' Weekly. In the mid 1960's she travelled for a year before training to be a teacher. After semi-retiring, Vij undertook private tuition making a lasting impression on her students; more travelling followed and in 1996 she finally moved, with a friend, to Petersfield to be near Tucker and **Mary Wood** née Tarrant who was from Stoke Poges. Vij died in November just short of her 79th birthday. She never lost her sense of humour and her friend **Gail** says of her "....a great inspirer and encourager of young people. She made them believe in themselves and fostered their ambitions". Throughout her life, Vij was a most generous friend of the Old Paludians.

Olive Ferguson (Thomas 1937-45). Olive was a great friend of the Old Paludians and we greatly appreciated her generosity. It is always sad to mark the passing of a friend and two of her school friends have penned the following: Olive died very suddenly just before Christmas. She began at the old High School in 1937 when it was still in William Street and went to Twinches Lane in 1939 where she later became Deputy Head Girl. In 1945 she studied at University College in London developing her great flair for languages – she spoke French, German, Russian, Norwegian and Spanish. Her first teaching post was in Leicester then she moved to Haberdashers' Aske's and lived in Charlton. Olive was devoted to the Old Paludians attending the Reunions whenever possible and she came to 'our' frequent form lunches. Together with **Evelyn Robinson** we had all been friends for over 60 years. In retirement she pursued her love of photography and travelled widely. In addition she cared for elderly neighbours and relatives. She will be much missed by her husband Edward and her many friends. **Ivy Harris** (Cook) and **Thelma Kyte** (Roberts).

Gwen adds: One of Olive's last projects, at the request of a friend, was to translate some captions under a series of sketches done by a German Lieutenant in Belgium in 1915-16. This was no easy task as it was all in Gothic script. Later the friend re-appeared with the same Officer's diary, full of abbreviations and written in the trenches. This was for a Museum in Ypres where there is an exhibition called "Unquiet Graves". Olive received a letter of thanks from the Curator. We send our condolences to family and friends.

In losing Vij and Olive, the Old Paludians and Slough Grammar School have lost not only two super ladies but two benefactors. In a quiet, indeed anonymous way, they both gave many, more than generous, donations which helped to build up the funds of the Old Pals, who were able in turn to help the School. We shall remember them with affection and gratitude.

Gerald F Cullimore and **Alan B Cullimore**. Both pupils in the 1930's and early 1940's: sadly news has reached us of Gerald's death in October last year, aged 74, and also that of Alan; he died in Toronto in January aged 78. Gerald played cricket and hockey with the Old Pals. Many of their contemporaries will remember them, both were Cippenham boys and the family was well-known in the village. *Our condolences to both families - Ed.*

LATE:

John W Griffith (1936-42). Also died in March. Succeeded John Collin as Chairman at OPL, Taplow.

****1940s****

Joyce Cooper (Hearn 1940-45). Sorry I won't be able to make it as I shall be away.

John Long (1940-44). Still not very mobile at present and regret I am unable to attend the AGM.

Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins 1940-46). Halfway through writing up the Hutchins family history – reconstructing 14 generations. The 1940's sequel to her "Sunshine Slough in the 1930's" is going a lot slower! She writes, "We have 10 grandchildren, 6 girls and 4 boys, and the youngest is 3 months old. The eldest 2 are at grammar schools and hopefully the next 2 will go next year. This June we will celebrate our Golden Wedding – unbelievable. Best wishes to those in our form who will be unable to make the Reunion; they may be out of sight, but not out of mind. We did have some fun, didn't we??!!"

Fred Collins (1941-47). I remember our wonderful visit to SGS last year and meeting up with **Billy Eastwell** and **Mavis Westbrook** who I had not seen since the 1940's. Also spoke with **Rex Eustance** following the AGM and thank his sister, **Audrey Fenn**, for giving me his number. What a difference in the School in the past fifty some odd years!!! My very best wishes to all at this year's Reunion. We hope to visit UK once

more in the not-too-distant future and, although we will miss this year's AGM, we will try to visit the School again when in the area.

June Ginger (Hunt 1941-47). June will be here in May for a holiday in Scotland with a friend from Pennsylvania (ex-Maidenhead). She also hopes to meet some of her old classmates for the usual lunch while she is here.

John Tebbit (1941-47). Will be attending this year after having missed out last year!

Audrey Walden (1941-47).). Still living in Brighton – has anyone any news of **Jacqueline Llewellyn**? Found last year's Book most interesting and when my brother, **Malcolm** (SGS) came over from Canada in September I gave it to him. It now resides on his bookcase in Ottawa!

Vera Ormond (Steptoe 1942-46). Has lived near Adelaide, South Australia, for almost 20 years. Visits the UK every 3 years and usually manages to meet friends, including **Betty Hill** (née Gomm 1941-46) and **Gwen Gale** for lunch.

Colin Thompson (1942-48). Unable to attend this year as I shall be away on holiday.

Barbara Smith (Hubbard 1942-49. Barbara hopes to attend the Reunion in the afternoon.

Jenny Harman (Pugh 1943-48). Unfortunately I have a 'Lace Day' on 31st and won't be able to make the Reunion – my good wishes to all.

Ann Roberts (Brooks 1943-48). Sorry to miss the Reunion as I will be in New Zealand visiting my daughter. Regards and best wishes to all our "gang".

Margaret Paine (Paine 1943-48). My six grandchildren are growing up quickly and I'm not getting any younger. I still keep busy including visits to my mother (95) who is suffering from Alzheimer's. This year I have added two more 'old' girls from 1943-48 who contacted me as a result of last year's Newsletter, **Barbara Price** (Brook) and **Joan Power** (Williams) – the total is now 20. Still seeking **Audrey Bateman**, **Sheila Osborne**, **Sheila Rapley** and **Joyce Werrell** so, if any news, please telephone 01753 643740.

Ron & Pat Fidler (Ron 1943-49, Pat Beard 1945-48). Sorry not to see you this March but we will be en-route to Dubai. Best wishes to all and hope to attend next year.

Barry Serjent (1943-49). I have just finished appearing as Charles Dickens in my musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* at the East Lane Theatre in Wembley. Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year's Reunion as I am now in a production of the play *Taking Sides* (matinée and evening performance!).

Molly Smith (McKeown c.1943-51). Husband Brian and I celebrate our Golden Wedding on Reunion Day. My best wishes to you all. *Congratulations – Ed.*

Annette Chant (Pountain 1944-48) and **Alicia Bentley** (Linton 1942-49). We are all very pleased that Annette and Alicia will make the long journey to attend the Reunion this year.

Jean Cartwright (Berryman 1944-49). Sent photographs of her Class IVB in 1948 together with signatures! Also photos of the Choral Society in 1949 and the Oxford School Cert Music class with **Miss Eileen Tucker**. These will be on display at the Reunion.

Shirley Paintin (Martin 1944-49). Will be away on holiday so must miss the Reunion.

Vernon Amos (1944-52). New Life Member. Difficult to travel these days but all good wishes for the day. My regards to any of my peers who may remember me.

Susan Cooper-Cronyn (Cooper 1944-52). Son (Jonathan) and daughter (Kate) are both married, Jonathon rowed in the Head of the River Race this year which meant a flying visit to UK (just missing the Reunion). Written two books this past year, *GREEN BOY* and a picture-book *FROG*, (both due out in 2002) as well as a tv film *JEWEL* due to be shown in USA around now. I will be in Vancouver in April where my husband is making a film – I always think of **Miss Saunderson** when travelling any distance as she taught me what to expect of any place or climate in the world. My warm regards to anyone who remembers me.

Robert Neale (1944-52). A New Life Member (and brother of **David**) living in Palmerston North, NZ.

Emigrated with his wife Jean more than 31 years ago. He writes, "After studying at Oxford and flying aeroplanes in the course of my National Service, I taught at the University of Michigan, then went on to Sherborne School where I became Head of English. Sailed to New Zealand in 1969 with my wife Jean and 2 small daughters in order to teach and research medieval English and Latin literature and art at Massey University. I also functioned there as University Public Orator for 20 years before retiring in 1999. We have travelled all over the world and hope – one day – to make the Old Pals Reunion. Thanks to the Old Pals I am now in touch with my 'cricket adversaries' **Philip Seal** and **Vernon Amos** from school-days. Vernon and I continued to play cricket at Oxford but for opposing College teams. We all hope to meet up one day – I haven't changed a bit, well, apart from white hair, wrinkles, hearing aid and I wonder if they have?"

Glenys Williams (1944-52). New Life Member. I have finally retired back to Swansea, the 'Land of my Fathers', after working abroad for most of my life. Taught in Paraguay, Ramallah (West Bank), Jordan and Spain. I have very happy memories of SHS, mostly of playing hockey and singing in the choir. Delighted to be back in touch, after being contacted by **Sheila Hughes (Webb)** last year. My first Reunion.

Barbara Rigby (Kent 1945-50). Sorry I can't make the 31st due to a previous engagement. I am now quite mobile and trying to avoid pitfalls. Best wishes to you all.

Philip Seal (1946-50). What a year! I wrote to Valerie in case anyone knew of the whereabouts of **Vernon Amos** of cricketing fame at SGS – more in hope than anticipation. Three names and the third came up trumps. There followed a phone call and then several long letters between Vernon and myself exchanging 50 years of news. But more - there came a call from **David Neale** who had been seeking Vernon for his brother **Robert** in NZ – so now Robert and I were busily exchanging news (via e-mail) as well as photographs. Thank you, Old Paludians. I will be making the journey up from Devon and look forward to the Reunion – more nostalgia.

Graham Holmes (1946-52). One day I *will* attend the Reunion – ever hopeful! Lives in Teignmouth.

Anne Barnard (Stavert 1947-51). So sorry I shan't be able to make the Reunion this year but I have a long-standing booking for *Henry V* at the Barbican. Hope you all have a wonderful 'gossipy' day!

Malcolm Hellings (1947-52). Attending with his friend **Malcolm Doyle** over from New York.

Maureen Lessels (Clancy 1947-53). Unable to attend – looking after my daughter and children when the new baby arrives!!

Eric Simpson (1948-52). Many may remember my first wife **Jean Watkins** (c.1951-54) and I am sorry to have to let you know she died about 6 years ago.

Peter Burgess (1949-54). My book "*Slough – A Century of Change*" compiled with local historian, Dr Judith Hunter, was published last year and is still available at £10 post paid from me at 15 White Hill, Worcester, WR4 0JG. Great success in locating classmates **Len Jackson**, **Jeff Parker** and **Cecil Newby** very recently but still seeking news of others – see back page.

Penny Gniel (Norcott 1949-54). Continues to live in Greenock, South Australia and has now recovered from a broken leg which restricted her activities somewhat. At last she can ride her lovely horse again.

Leonard Jackson (1949-54). A new Life Member, he has been put in touch with **Peter Burgess** after seeking each other for so long. Len is also in touch with **Jeff Parker** in California. With wife Donna, he will be coming all the way from Illinois in order to attend his first Reunion and they are really looking forward to it. But for work commitments, eldest son Paul would have made the trip from California to meet his Dad's school pals. Jeff will be in Rome or he, too, might have made the trip.

Valerie Kershaw (Speed 1949-54). Sorry – I shall be in Florida! I still live in Stanmore, Middx, keeping busy reporting House of Commons Select Committees; also singing in my church choir. Children Helen and Robert (25 and 22 this year) are both still studying. Helen is also working at Imperial College. Would love to hear news of **Dorothy Willé** and **Doreen Millard**.

Mary Shepherdson (Clements 1949-56). Visiting friends at the end of March so I'm sorry not to be able to attend – hope you all have a great day and best wishes to all who remember me. Hope to make it next year.

Valerie Storie (1949-55). Will I ever find time to write my book?

Rod Cooper (1949-57). New Life Member. Hopes to return to full-time fiction writing again having edited several County magazines (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) for over 20 years. Looking forward to the challenge.

Allan Rackstraw (1949-57). New Life Member. Allan had hoped to attend the Reunion for the first time but the dates didn't work out and he will be abroad at the end of March.

New Life Members: **Stan Simmance** (1940-45), **Barbara Price** (Brook 1943-48), **Jean Schaffer** (Coles 1943-48), **Neville Shave** (1944-49), **Olive Petty** (Lees 1946-52), **Roy Smith** (1948-53), **Dennis Daly** (1949-54), **Denis Delaney** (1949-54), **Jeff B Parker** (1949-54), **Malcolm Stewart** (1949-56), **Julie McLaren** (Basden late 1940's ?).

Good wishes received: **Dawn Bennett** (1941-47), **Anne Letchford** (Reeves 1943-49), **Maureen Harris** (Reardon 1946-54), **Peter Dunage** (1947-49), **Gillian Roast** (Pegg 1948-54), **Eileen Pearce** (Kitch 1949-54), **Caroline Lovegrove** (Duckett 1949-55), **Brenda Josling** (Ashton 1949-56).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Michael Shave (1942-49). Literally as this Newsletter was going to the printer I heard of the very sudden death on 6 March of Mike Shave. I had known him, through his work, for nearly 30 years but only last year discovered both he and his brother **Neville** (1944-49) had been SGS pupils and both subsequently joined the Old Pals. Mike was associated with the Farnham Royal Cricket Club all his life, as a player, as secretary and more latterly as an umpire, reaching County umpire status. He was on the committee of Bucks County Cricket Club and played table tennis for Bucks Veterans. He was planning to attend his first Reunion this year. Mike will be missed by very many people and we extend our sympathy to his wife, Marjorie, and to Neville. VJS

****1950s****

Valerie Cowdery (Wallis 1950-55?). Thank you for tracking me down after moving! I now live near Bolton and hope to see you another year.

Maureen Hitchcock (Palfrey 1950-55). New Life Member. I am really looking forward to attending my first Reunion – I hope I will recognise someone as it has been such a long time!

Joan Poole (Southwood 1951-54). I am hoping to attend in the afternoon.

Norma Meyrick (Parker 1951-56). New Life Member – attending her first Reunion in the afternoon. Sister of **Jeff Parker** in California.

Ann Reed (Howell 1951-56). This year she celebrates 50 years since starting at SHS. Spent a lot of time over the past couple of years tracing her '1956 – Miss Cooke' classmates and they are all meeting up on Reunion Day. *It will be some Reunion as many girls from the other classes of the 1951-56 era have also been found and are attending – Ed.*

Clive & Marjorie Toogood (Clive 1951-56, Marjorie Smith 1950-55). Sorry we are unable to attend due to work commitments. Our best wishes to all.

Sue Cheale (Clarke 1952-56). Unable to make the Reunion – cooking for 150-200 hockey players each Saturday at present!!

Carolyn Mason (King 1952-58). Lives on the Isle of Wight and continues her poetry writing (as *Carolyn King*). Following last year's Reunion, her latest collection "Lifelines" came out in July (ISBN 0-9531860-1-6); in November she won 1st prize in an international poetry competition; in December the BBC broadcast some of her poetry and used 2 poems in an exhibition – see <www.bbc.co.uk.yearoftheartist>. Hopes to be at the Reunion but not till mid-afternoon. Still in close touch with **Liz Caton** née Lepper who is in Lancashire.

Ann Jerram (Smith 1953-60). New Life Member. Usually called Smiffy at school! It was good to hear from the Association and I was pleased to recognise some of the names from so long ago. I left SHS for Keele University and subsequently taught in Amersham and Uganda. I married in 1970 and had twin boys and a daughter who, together with teaching in a number of schools, kept me pretty busy. I then moved to the Cambridge area to take up an advisory teacher post, returning to the classroom after 4 years and finally took early retirement in 1997. I live in Girton now with my second husband and work part-time for the local examination board hence I am unable to attend the Reunion being snowed under with exam marking. I

would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Maureen McIlveen (Dean 1954-56). Sorry I can't attend once again – since retirement my husband and I take our holiday in Feb/Mar and we won't be returning to UK until the day of the Reunion. Hopefully my friends **Anthea Fowler** (Bailey) and **Janet Rogers** (Badnell) will be there and pass all the news on to me.

Celia Johns (Nelmes 1955-62). Looking forward to meeting everyone at the Reunion – good wishes to all who can't make it to Slough. My news of the year - I became a besotted grandmother just after Christmas!!

Ruth Sheppard (Clark 1955-62). Looking forward to meeting up with old friends again – still looking for **Elsbeth Adcock** and her sister **Jackie** see back page. Busy year, sorting out care needs for my Father (90 in May!) and David, one of my twin sons, has joined the Parachute Regiment. Husband John, son Andrew and my sister **Lorna** (1957-63) were all proud to attend his Pass Out ceremony at Catterick last November. John and I sing with various local groups and I am appearing as "Dame Carruthers" in Maidenhead Operatic Society's "Yeoman of the Guard" – a temporary transition from soprano to contralto! Met up recently with **Gloria Ringrose** (Slatter) who may be persuaded to come along to the Reunion.

Wendy Heath (1956-59). She had hoped to come to this year's Reunion but fate intervened and she is recovering from a difficult appendectomy. Looks forward to making one day. *We wish her a speedy recovery.*

Debbie Wright (Bishop 1956-62). I am very busy doing 3 people's work – a nightmare situation but all is nearly resolved! Despite this, I am loving my job and look forward to seeing everyone on 31 March.

Christine Elbourne (Hampshire 1956-63). I'm sorry I shan't be able to attend this year – our dog is due to produce puppies just about then! I hope you have a successful day and I send best wishes to any of my contemporaries, staff and pupils, who may be there.

Robert Moss (1956-64). He is putting together a display associated with the School Travel Days (end of summer term) for the Reunion – does anyone else have any associated paperwork? It can all be placed in the School Archives and make a bigger display next time. Please see/contact Robert or Jean Tyler.

Christine Seaville (Herman 1957-62: 3rd form entry). I have now moved to Red Deer, in Alberta and if anyone would like to contact me, my e-mail address is <seaville2@hotmail.com>. I had a very brief visit to UK for family celebrations but had no chance to look anyone up. I will pass the Newsletter on to the **Pywell** twins (**Monica and Stella**) – they are seeking news of the whereabouts of **Joan and Veronica Young** (c.1956-62) – both sets of twins were friends but have lost touch. Can anyone help?

Michele Bovey (Sothcott 1958-65). Michele writes: "Will be in Venice on 31st. I still live in Somerset with my husband – all 3 children are grown up now. Working as a journalist for The Daily Telegraph and other broadsheets and just completing my 5th book. Good wishes - to all the staff who had the unenviable task of trying to control me – and to everyone in my year".

Carolyn Boulter (Blatch 1959-64). I continue to work at the University of Reading in the School of Education where I deal with Initial Teacher Training in Science Education and Research methods for the Faculty. My research takes me to various conferences all over the world. This year I have met up with **Sandra Pla** (Edmundson) who lives in France and we spent a happy 2 days with Sandra and Maurice in August. Also keep in touch with **Tessa Epstein** (Hartley) who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

New Life Members: **Patricia Harris** (Bushill 1950-54), **Brenda Bristow** (Holloway 1951-56), **Audrey Furminger** (Broome 1951-56), **Margaret Pritchard** (Lees 1951-56), **David Harding** (1951-58), **Dilys Shilton** (Jones 1952-56), **Richard Croker** (1956-63), **Diana Davis** (King 1957-62), **Jill Wenham**, (Bee 1957-62), **Peter Firth** (1957-64).

Good wishes from: **Anthea Fowler** (Bailey 1950-56), **Janet Rogers** (Badnell 1950-57), **Pamela Mackey** (Shelton-Smith 1950-57), **Jill Mansfield** (1950-58), **Pamela Green** (Maton 1951-56), **Bill Dacke** (1952-56), **June Hole** (Bates 1952-56).

LATE: **Terry Knight** (1952-60) *Terry died suddenly in September 2000 – news just received.*

****1960s****

Angela Jones (Drakeford 1961-65). Apologies once again for not attending – I have a family commitment on that day. My good wishes to everyone at the Reunion. I have many fond memories of SHS and wish I could be with you all.

Rev. Charles Overton (1962-70). Unable to attend as I will be working in France from 1 March until 20 October.

Colin Cairns (1965-72). I recently encountered **Richard (Dick) Croker** (1956-63) in Tilehurst and his brother **John** also attended SGS 1957-65. Dick is in touch with **Jim Grant, Peter Firth, Ron Smith** and **Dave Soule**. *(As a result, Dick and Peter have become a Life Members and will be at the Reunion – Ed)*

Claire Brereton (1965-73). In 1999 Claire spent 5 months travelling with Nick and their 2 daughters to Goa, Hong Kong, Thailand, where they rented a house for 2 months and then on to Brisbane to sister **Margot** for Christmas and the New Millennium celebrations. In January Claire and Nick were married in Margot's garden amid much emotion. They returned via Fiji, Los Angeles and Norfolk in Virginia. Claire and family hope to emigrate to Australia having enjoyed the Aussie way of life. *Congratulations and Good Luck.*

Commodore Laurie Brokenshire, RN (1966-71). Moved to Cornwall so even more difficult to attend.

Christina (Tina) Francis (Burrell-Davis 1968-75). I've been in Binfield since August after 13 years in Bracknell. Seems impossible that I have been teaching infants for 22 years, the last 3 at the Marist Convent Junior School in Sunninghill. Married to Gavin for 14 years with daughters Lauren (13) and Joanna (10). Both are able gymnasts – **Miss Booth, Mrs Swan** and **Miss Darling** would have been amazed after my feeble gym attempts!! I'm in touch with **Madeline Young, Debra Pack (Baldock), Alison Garnet (Pull), Cheryl Dobbs (Pride) and Fiona Green**. Looking forward to the Reunion and would love to hear from anyone from my era.

New Life Member: Clive Richardson (1969-76), **Alistair Sim** (1969-76).

Good wishes from: Lesley Ashton (1967-74).

****1970s****

Sandy Dale (1971-78). Sadly it is too far to come from Cornwall where I am having a great time – I am working part-time, doing a Multimedia course so that my computer 'works' for me by designing web-sites and I do voluntary work with cats and also at the local zoo. I have a great group of friends and go on lots of outings where I can indulge in photography – also I am getting into art (clay and painting) which is both fun and therapy. I still write to **Lis Scott** (Smith), **Ruth Lewis** (Blundell) and **Pam Szadowski** (Crockford) and look forward to all the news in the next Newsletter. Possibility of a Reunion – see "Stop Press" below

Janet Smith (Shepherdson 1975-81). Unable to attend this year. I received a copy of the OP Book for Christmas and found it fascinating. All sorts of interesting things I never knew!!!

Judy Farrow (Paine 1976-80). Currently living in Wokingham, married to Jeremy with twins, Zoe and Lawrence, who will be 4 in April. Life has been very hectic since they were born, but it is now beginning to get a little easier! It would be interesting to know the whereabouts of any of my school year – contact me at <judy.farrow@talk21.com>.

Andy Okolotowicz (1977-83). New Life Member – hopes to attend AGM in the afternoon.

STOP PRESS:

Reunion for the Form 1K of the 1971 intake?? Sandy Dale writes: Some of the girls from the 1971 era have realised it is **30 years** since we began at SHS – are you interested in having a Reunion in September 2001? It would probably be at someone's home and not expensive. We are looking for **Jane Major, Debra Horler, Elizabeth Gibbons, Jill Denman, Kalpana Pankhania, Rosemary Riddell, Carol Lowry & Pam Nightingale**. Contact Sandy if you can help or are interested in having a get together (e-mail: sandy.dale@virgin.net) or contact Valerie.

****1980s****

New Life Member: Marc Witkowski (1980-86).

The Parent Staff Association (PSA). Each year the PSA raises a considerable sum of money for the

School: as we did last year, we welcome one or two of their members to our Reunion in order to sell tickets for their Prize Spring Draw. In return, we are all invited to attend their July Family Fun Day at the School.

OUR BOOK

**Recollections of Slough Secondary School & the Old Paludians
as remembered by Peter Bennett and others**

It is in three sections: firstly, memories of the forerunner of today's School followed by the story of the Old Paludians Association and lastly, highly personal recollections of some of the members themselves; together, these form part of the social history of the times. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Jean Tyler or Valerie Storie. [£5.50 if collected, £6.50 UK posted or £8.00 for airmail]

It has been brought to our notice that there is a name missing from the WWII Roll of Honour. Unfortunately, it was inevitable that some names might have been omitted. The evidence available to Peter was provided by the School from its records. Sometimes boys will have moved from the area and their loss would not have been recorded in the local press, on local War Memorials or in the School records. We do apologise for these omissions and if you know of a missing name(s) please let Valerie know and every effort will be made to correct future editions when reprinted as well as correcting the School's records.



We've lost touch with:

We are looking for news of the following: the Pywell twins (Monica and Stella) in Vancouver are seeking the whereabouts of **Joan and Veronica Young** (also twins c.1956-62: Fred Collins still seeks news of **John Fry, Leslie Darkes, Gordon Duncan, David Pentelow, Terrence Wherelock** and other classmates. **Margaret Nunn** (1946-53) is still being sought for Paula Atherton. Ruth Sheppard would welcome news of **Elsbeth Adcock and her sister Jackie** – they joined the School in 1957 (Ellie to 3rd form and Jackie to 1st form but they moved to Yarnton Vicarage near Oxford in 1961. Peter Burgess (1949-54) is still looking for **John Dilly and Johnney Hinds**, his 'form 5B' classmates. Seeking any information about **Jacqueline Llewellyn** (1941-46) for Audrey Walden. Do you know the whereabouts of **Doreen Millard****, **Peter Ashley** or **Keith Ball** for Len Jackson. **Doreen**** and **Dorothy Willé** are sought by Valerie Kershaw. Has anyone any knowledge of the whereabouts of **Robert and Christopher Giles** – twins, late 1940's and **Ann Giles** circa 1952 - the Giles family used to live at Iver.



But we've found:

We have had quite stunning successes this past year and a number of old friends are back in touch. We've located **'Ginger' Lane** for Fred Collins, we made contact with **Barbara Brook and Joan Williams** (1943-48) for Margaret Paine. **Len Jackson** (1949-54) has been put in touch with Peter Burgess; Len is also in contact with **Jeff Parker** (1949-54) who lives in California so all three are delighted. Peter Burgess has also located **Cecil Newby** from his year. **Malcolm Doyle** is attending, all the way from New York, with his friend Malcolm Hellings. We have traced **Vernon Amos** for Philip Seal and, along with **Robert Neale**, there is another trio of friends back together. News has come in of many former pupils of both the High School and Grammar School – and earlier - and they have all become Old Paludians and we are pleased to welcome them.

STOP PRESS: April 2001. An exciting development is the setting up of our own Old Paludians website - this can be found at <www.oldpaludians.org>. All our members will, of course, be contacted in the usual way and can write to us likewise. Nothing will change but it does mean we can reach a wider membership, especially the younger students coming along and who will form the life-blood of the Association in future years. We hope that members will be able to search for classmates through the site, have news of the School and dates of forthcoming Reunions or School activities. It is hoped, too, that many of the old School/class photos can be displayed. If you have access to the Internet then do have a look and we would welcome your comments. The Grammar School has its own excellent website at <www.sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk>. We often have requests for news of former classmates - and most times we can oblige. Please contact Gwen or Valerie (letter or e-mail) if you wish to find someone and likewise, if you see a familiar name and would like details.

The Old Paludians:

Chairman : Jean Tyler (chairman@oldpaludians.org)

Secretary: Valerie Storie (secretary@oldpaludians.org)

Treasurer:Gwen Gale (treasurer@oldpaludians.org)